

MR. BATEMAN: My name's Chris Bateman and I'm a mining engineer at the SUFCO Mine. And over the last decade, coal power plants have been forced to shut down at a rate of about ten plants per year on average from high regulations. The continual loss of affordable energy will only hurt taxpayers and the programs funded from these taxes. The State of Utah is powered by 80 percent coal. Restricting and complicating the affordable energy will only exponentially raise the cost of energy for Utahns, as well as the rest of the population of this country. Germany recently has had a goal to convert 30 percent of its energy source to renewability sources over the next 15 years. This started back in around 2010. This process has raised the cost of electricity to nearly three times that than the usual cost. This process has put a good portion of the population into a term coined by them "energy poverty." Many people have had their power shut off and live in a much worse condition than they did years ago. The cost to integrate renewable energies in this country has also cost billions of dollars just to network that renewable source for them to try and make that transition that is not floating. Personally, I think we should use affordable energy and integrate other logical and efficient energy sources over a period of time that makes sense. We can't do it tomorrow, we can't just kill coal to make this happen. It has been proven we can provide clean and affordable energy safely and on a triple bottom line, which is social, environmental, and financial aspects, which must be respected for the public and secured. I believe streamlining these leases, processes, and finding a fair tax rate for all energy sources as equals will help with this. And I'd like to comment on the older lady's comment about the Middle Eastern country Syria and how the refugees are leaving from there. Personally, I fought over there and they weren't leaving because of climate. It was a different change, why they wanted to leave. So if you're going to talk about climate change, you might want to get your facts straight and see it. Thanks.